

**ADMINISTRATIVE
INTERNAL USE ONLY**

26 SEP 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Records Integration Division
SUBJECT: Report on Tape Winding and Tape Life

Harry:

1. Some time ago you asked for additional information on Tape Winding and Tape Life. We tried to get more information on the Newell Industries System which was described to us at the Federal Records Management Officers Meeting at Ocean City in May. Apparently, the speaker was overly optimistic. A check with the National Archives indicated that tests conducted by the Bureau of Standards were not favorable.
2. National Archives sent reels of pressed tape to the Bureau of Standards for a temperature cycle test. The tape broke in several places. The reels being tested had been wound by the Newell process but had not been program wound. NARS asked Newell Industries to send some program wound tapes for further tests but, as yet, they have not heard from Newell.
3. When program wound the tape is wound to a specific tension so that the tension applies to the entire reel from the hub out. It must be rotated quarterly and rewound once a year to redistribute the stresses and to avoid print-through from one layer of tape to another. The print-through comes from keeping the tape wound up, stored, and not moved or rewound periodically.
4. If you would like to see the total operation and production rates on program wound tapes, NARS suggested General Kinetics Inc. at Reston. GKI is using programmed tension winders and recommends cleaning and rewinding tapes once a year. Ogden Thompson is Regional Manager and can be reached at Reston on 471-7522.
5. The National Archives is ruling out high compression tape winding as a storage method. They consider 12 years as the life of the information on tape for storage purposes. For longer-term tape they recommend rotating quarterly and rewinding annually. Other processes are still being studied. We're keeping in touch with National Archives and other Agencies on their experience with tape storage and if anything significant develops we can pass it along.

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15 JUL 1969

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called
yesterday re: memo on
Ocean City Conference and
our offer to make
more information
available

He would like more
on para c + f of our
memo. Tape unwinding
and tape life.

Will you see that he
is accommodated - pull
together what we have for
me to send --

STAT

called Joe Bradt

13.2.1972

He will check with someone on
Newell Industries and call us or
send what he can get.

Re tape life

he doesn't have any more than
reported in para f. but he did
say that Nars will probably put 12
yrs lifetime on mag tape.

He also reminded me that CIA
did not report on its tapes.

RD 7/15

Newell is on West Coast -

*We have sent request for info
three NARS - Joe Bradt.*

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